# Virginia Studies STANDARD VS.4 STUDY GUIDE

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### STANDARD VS.4.A

### AGRICULTURE - SLAVERY

Virginia Colony: The importance of agriculture and its influence on the institution of slavery.

What effect did **agriculture** have on the Virginia colony?

The success of **tobacco as a cash crop** transformed life in the Virginia colony and **encouraged slavery**.

Terms to know

- Cash crop: A crop that is grown to sell for money rather than for use by the growers
- The economy of the Virginia colony depended on agriculture as a primary source of wealth.



An overseer supervises two enslaved girls
Sketched near Fredericksburg in 1798

How did **agriculture** in the Virginia colony influence the institution of **slavery**?

**Tobacco** became the **most profitable** agricultural product.

- Tobacco was sold in England as a cash crop.
- The successful planting of tobacco depended on a steady and inexpensive source of labor.
- African men, women, and children were brought to the colony against their will to work as slaves on the plantations.
- The Virginia colony became **dependent on slave labor**, and the dependence lasted a long time.

### STANDARD VS.4B--**CULTURE REFLECTS ORIGINS**

The **culture of colonial Virginia** reflected beliefs, customs, and architecture of **Europeans, Africans, and American Indians** living in those areas.

Although a colony of England, Virginia developed a **unique culture** different from that of England.

How did the culture of colonial Virginia reflect beliefs, customs, and architecture of people Europeans, Africans, and American Indians?

### **Culture of colonial Virginia**

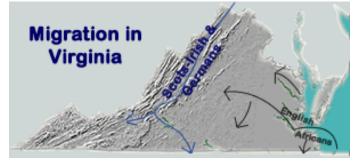
Whenever people settle an area, they change the culture and landscape to reflect their beliefs, customs, and architecture..

Examples of **architecture** that reflect different cultures include

- Barns
- Homes
- Places of worship (e.g., churches)

Place names reflecting culture

- English—Richmond
- American Indian Roanoke



Where did the various cultural groups settle?

#### **Settlement areas**

- English and other Europeans settled primarily in Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions.
- Germans and Scots-Irish settled primarily in the Shenandoah Valley, which was along the migration route.
- Africans were settled primarily in the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) and Piedmont regions where tobacco agriculture required a great deal of labor.
- Prior to the arrival of the settlers, American Indians lived throughout Virginia. After the settlers arrived, most were forced inland.

Migration and living in new areas caused people to **adapt old customs to their new environment**.

## STANDARD VS.4c -- CAPITAL MOVES

The reason for the relocation of Virginia's capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg to Richmond.



A variety of factors explain the reasons for moving Virginia's capital.

What were some **reasons** why the capital was moved from **Jamestown to Williamsburg**?

- Drinking water was contaminated by seepage of salt water.
- Unhealthy living conditions caused diseases.
- Fire destroyed wooden and brick buildings at Jamestown.

What were some **reasons** why the capital was moved from **Williamsburg to Richmond**?

- Population was moving westward.
- Richmond was a more central location.
- Moving to Richmond increased the distance from attack by the British-

England became Great Britain in the early 1700s.

# STANDARD VS.4D -- Money, Barter, Credit



Money, barter, and credit were

**Money** was not often used in the early Virginia colony.

What forms of **exchange** were used in the Virginia colony?

#### Terms to know

 Money: A medium of exchange (currency, which includes coins and paper bills)

- **Barter**: Trading/exchanging of goods and services without the use of money
- Credit: Buying a good or service now and paying for it later
- **Debt:** A good or service owed to another

 Saving: Money put away to save or to spend at a later time

**Few** people had **paper money** and coins to use to buy goods and services.

Barter was commonly used instead of money.

**Tobacco** was used as **money**. A tobacco farmer could use his tobacco to pay for goods and services.

Farmers and other consumers could also buy goods and services on **credit** and pay their **debts** when their crops were harvested and sold.

Colonial Virginia had no banks

### STANDARD VS.4E --EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE COLONY

Resources were used in colonial Virginia to produce the goods and services that people needed.

**Everyday life** was **different** for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in colonial Virginia.

How did **resources** influence the food, housing, and clothing in **colonial Virginia**?

People living in **colonial Virginia** depended on **natural**, **human**, **and capital resources** to produce the goods and services they needed.

### Food:

- Food choices were limited
- Meals were made of local produce and meats

### Housing:

- Most people lived in one-room homes with dirt floors
- Some people (farmers) lived in large houses

### Clothing:

- Households made their own clothes
- Most clothing was made of cotton, wool, and leather

How was **everyday life different** for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in colonial Virginia?

Most white Virginians made their living from the land as small farmers. A few owned large farms (plantations).,

Most enslaved African Americans worked tobacco, crops, and livestock. Enslaved African Americans had no rights.

Many free African Americans owned their own business and property, but were denied most rights.